

MARVEL
COMICS



X-MEN

JULY '96 \$4

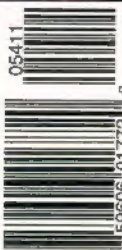


SPECIAL
AND SLAUGHT
UPDATE INSIDE!

THE SECRET REVEALED!

X-MEN

DIRECT EDITION



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\$1.95 US \$2.75 CAN

XAVIER INSTITUTE FOR
HIGHER LEARNING.

SAM GUTHRIE
HAS HAD BETTER
NIGHTS.

AS THE YOUNGEST — AND
MOST POINTLESSLY INSECURE —
OF THE X-MEN, SAM WENT TO
TEAM FOUNDER CHARLES XAVIER
EARLIER TODAY, LOOKING FOR
YET ANOTHER PEP TALK.

XAVIER'S RESULTANT
SCREED CONTAINED
MANY, MANY HARSH
WORDS.

"PEP"
WASN'T
ONE OF
THEM.

NOW SAM SITS
WATCHING...
WAITING TO
BUILD ENOUGH
COURAGE TO
TELL XAVIER OFF.

HE SHOULD BE
READY BY
THANKSGIVING.

2006.

"PSSST!"

CYCLOPS
THAT YOU?

SAM?
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
UP THERE?

JUST...
THINKIN'.

ABOUT?
WAIT... LET ME
GUESS.

ORORO
TOLD ME THE
PROFESSOR
PUT YOU
THROUGH ONE
OF HIS LITTLE
LECTURES.

THEY
STING,
DON'T THEY?

YOU... YOU
GOT 'EM,
TOOP.

GOT
'EM... WHEN
I WAS YOUR
AGE.

THE HARD
PART WAS
FIGURING OUT
WHICH ONES I
DESERVED...

... AND
WHICH ONES I
GOT BECAUSE HE
HAD SOMETHING
BIGGER EATING
AT HIM.



HE GOT DE DROP ON BISHOP 'N' ME, MON AM! TOOK US OUT BUT GOOD —

— AND WHEN WE AWAKE — HE WAS GONE! —

WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE HE'S AFTER, SCOTT?

BEST GUESS? WHAT HE'S BEEN SO OFTEN AFTER, HIS STEP-BROTHER...



... CHARLES.

CLEARLY, THE PROFESSOR'S NOT IN DANGER NOW...

... BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN HE WON'T BE.

XAVIER MUST BE PROTECTED AT ALL COSTS. WE MUST WARN HIM.

NO.

BUT —

JUST... TRUST ME, I'M WORRIED THAT THE PROFESSOR HAS TOO MUCH ON HIS MIND AS IT IS.



SINCE I DON'T HEAR WALLS COMING DOWN, IT'S SAFE TO ASSUME JUGGERNAUT ISN'T IN THE MANSION YET.

THAT PUTS HIM ON THE GROUNDS SOMEWHERE.



SPLIT UP, ICEMAN — YOU AND BEAST CHECK OUT THE NORTH WOODS. WOLVERINE, TAKE BISHOP AND GAMBIT TO THE COVE.

STORM, YOU AND CANNONBALL COME WITH ME.

WE'LL FIND CAIN MARKO — AND FAST.

UNLIKELY.

NOT IF NO ONE'S LOOKING DEEP BENEATH THE MANSION... FOR A MOST UNUSUAL PAIR WITH A MOST UNUSUAL BOND.

SEPARATELY, BOTH JUGGERNAUT AND JEAN GREY HAVE BATTLED THE MYSTERIOUS BEING WHO CALLS HIMSELF ONSLAUGHT.

SINCE THEN, JUGGERNAUT HAS BECOME AWARE THAT HIS MEMORIES HOLD AN IMPORTANT SECRET ABOUT THEIR FOE... A SECRET MENTALLY BLOCKED BY ONSLAUGHT.

IN DESPERATION, HE HAS ASKED JEAN TO BREAK THAT BLOCK WITH HER TELEPATHIC POWERS IN HOPES OF LEARNING ONSLAUGHT'S IDENTITY --

-- BEFORE ONSLAUGHT CLAIMS THEM -- AND THE WORLD.

HEY, IF YOU CAN EXPLAIN JEAN'S COSTUME CHANGE BETWEEN UNUSUALITY ~~MARKO~~ AND NOW, YOU'LL WIN YOURSELF A BONA FIDE NO-PRIZE! - Bob.

NICE PLACE YA GOT HERE. HOT 'N' COLD RUNNING NOTHIN'.

WHERE ARE WE?

INSIDE THE MOST HEAVILY PSI-SHIELDED CHAMBER ON EARTH. HERE, I HAVE THE PRIVACY I NEED TO DO WHATEVER I CAN OUT OF THAT THICK SKULL OF YOURS.

I DIDN'T FIGGER YOU TO BE SUCH A SOLO ACT.

WE NEED TO ENSURE THAT WE'RE SAFE FROM ONSLAUGHT'S PRESENCE. HE'S ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL ESPERS I'VE EVER MET.

I KNOW YOU'RE SCARED OF HIM, MARKO. FRANKLY, I AM TOO.

WHO SAID I WAS..?

WELL, WHATEVER. AWRIGHT. YOU'RE TH' BOSS... F'R NOW, GO TO IT.

WE'LL BE SAFE DOWN HERE...

I NOTICE
YA DIDN'T PUT OUT
ANY CHIPS 'N' DIP
FR THE OTHER X-MEN.
YOU REALLY
AIN'T EXPECTIN'
COMPANY.

THEY
DON'T KNOW
ABOUT THIS
ROOM.

PROFESSOR X
ONCE LIVED HERE
FOR AN EXTENDED
PERIOD IN ORDER
TO FAKE HIS OWN
DEATH.

WHAT ARE
YOU SMILING AT?

UNCANNY X-MEN #42 GS
- BOB

I REMEMBER THAT TIME. YOU
MEAN HE HID FROM ALL O' YA?
HE LIED TO HIS PRECIOUS
WIDDLE STUDENTS AND LET
'EM BELIEVE HE'D
CROAKED?

COOL!

I NEVER
THOUGHT CHUCK
HAD THAT KINDA MOXIE.
I DIDN'T KNOW HE COULD
BE SUCH A CREEP.

I'M
IMPRESSED.

HE
DIDN'T KEEP
IT FROM ALL OF
US, OKAY? NOW,
CONCENTR --

HE TOLD
YOU?

Oh-ho/
YOU WERE
IN ON IT? HELPED
HIM OUT, MAYBE?
YEAH! I CAN
SEE IT!

SHUT.

UP.

WHATS-
MATTIA, RED?
STRUCK A
NERVE?

NO.

YES.

A RAW ONE.

ONE EXPOSED BY
ONSLAUGHT WHEN
HE SHOWED JEAN
GREY THE DARK
SIDES OF CHARLES
XAVIER.

DARK THOUGHTS. DARK EMOTIONS. NONE
THAT MAKE HER EVEN REMOTELY COMFORTABLE
IN THE PRESENCE OF THE MAN WHO WAS ONCE
LIKE A FATHER TO HER...

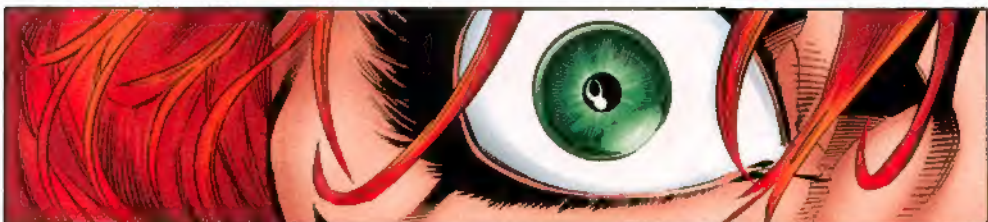
... EVEN WHEN HE
SHOULD HEAR
WHAT SHE HAS
TO SAY ABOUT
ONSLAUGHT.

HE DID
WHAT HE DID TO SAVE
THE PLANET, MARKO. THE
PROFESSOR IS THE MOST
POWERFUL TELEPATHIC
MIND ALIVE.

HE WAS
DOWN HERE
PREPARING A DEFENSE
AGAINST ALIEN INVADERS.
IF THEY EVEN SUSPECTED
HIS PRESENCE, THEY
WOULD'VE DESTROYED
OUR DEFENSE.

NOW...
FOR THE LAST
TIME... CONCENTRATE
AND LEAVE YOUR
MIND --

THE 2'ND IN
UNIT #88 - Bob



-- OPEN --P

NO!

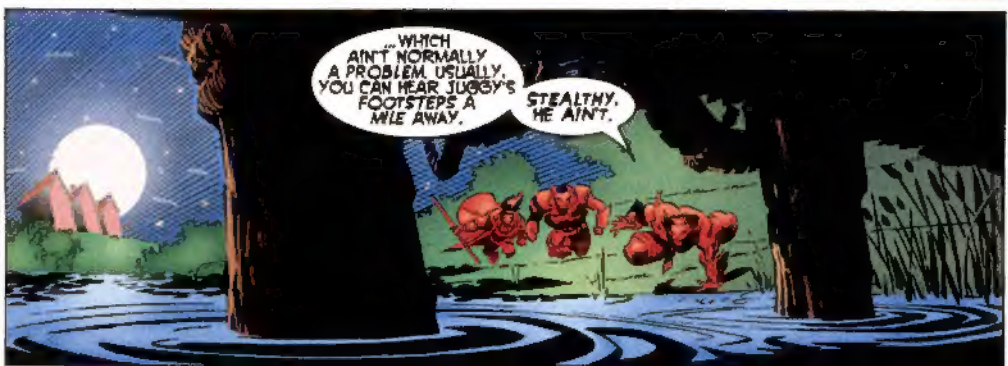
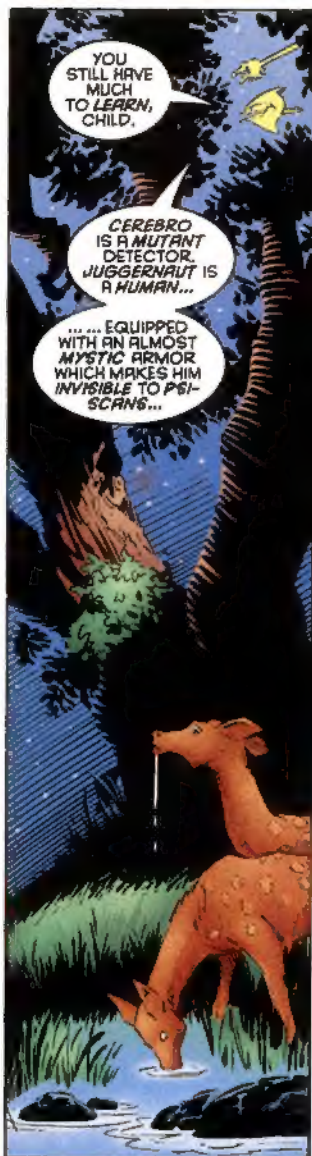
YOU
LEFT THE DOOR
UNSEAL!

DON'T
YOU REALIZE
THAT IF THIS ROOM'S
NOT FULLY
SHIELDED --

-- IT'S
NOT PSI-
PROOF?

THOOM

JEAN..P





OR SO HE BELIEVES.

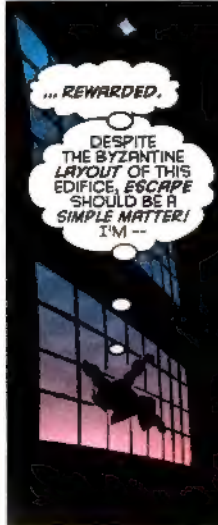
CHANK



FINALLY.

NO POINT IN BREAKING LOOSE BEFORE, AS WEAK AS I AM, I COULD NEVER HAVE BATTERED MY WAY OUT OF THIS BRICK COFFIN.

BUT THE SIGHT OF A LOOSE FLOORSTONE GAVE ME HOPE...



...REWARDED.

DESPITE THE BYZANTINE LAYOUT OF THIS EDIFICE, ESCAPE SHOULD BE A SIMPLE MATTER! I'M --



-- FREE --PI!

NOT SO FAST, FURBALL.

WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?



SCOTT SUMMERS IS TRYING HARD NOT TO THINK ABOUT JUGGERNAUT.

HE CAN'T BE THE REASON SCOTT HAS SUDDENLY LOST HIS PSYCHIC RAPPORT WITH HIS WIFE, JEAN.

CAN HE?

SCOTT WOULD HAVE FELT JEAN'S SURPRISE AND PAIN HAD JUGGERNAUT FOUND HER... HARMED HER.

WOULDN'T HE?

ONLY ONE MAN KNOWS FOR CERTAIN.

PROFESSOR!



CYCLOPS, PLEASE. I ASKED NOT TO BE DISTURBED. IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE --

IT'S ABOUT JEAN, SIR.

OUR PSYCHIC LINK HAS BEEN BROKEN...

...AND I'M EXTREMELY WORRIED ABOUT HER.



ODD.

I NO LONGER SENSE HER PRESENCE, EITHER. IT'S AS IF SHE'S VANISHED ALTOGETHER FROM THE PSYCHIC PLANE.

STRANGE... BUT IF ANYONE CAN TAKE CARE OF HERSELF, IT'S JEAN.

SIR..P

THAT WILL BE ALL, CYCLOPS.

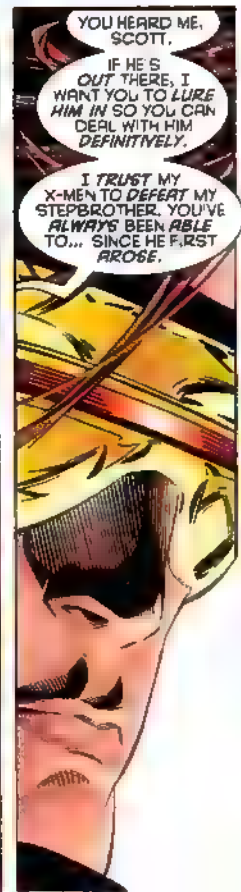
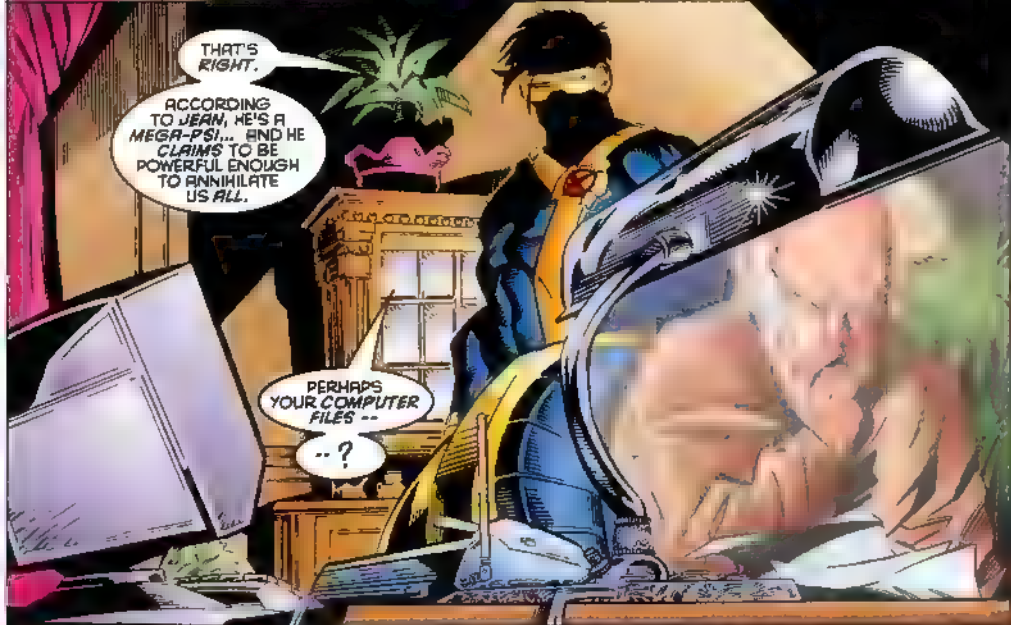


NO, THERE'S MORE, PROFESSOR... CHARLES... YOU'LL FORGIVE ME, BUT I DON'T HAVE THE PATIENCE FOR YOUR NEW BEHAVIOR PATTERN RIGHT NOW.

YOU'RE TROUBLED BY SOMETHING, CLEARLY... WHICH IS THE REASON JEAN DIDN'T COME TO YOU TODAY...



-- AFTER SHE MET ONSLAUGHT.



"IT WAS, LIKE, THE
WONKIEST LUCK.
CHUCK AND I, WE
WERE SERVIN' IN
ASIA ALL THEM
YEARS AGO, WHEN
WE GOT CUT OFF
FROM THE REST
OF OUR PLATOON

"WE STUMBLED INTO THIS WEIRD
TEMPLE, AND THIS CRIMSON GEM.
IT JUST... ATE ITSELF INSIDE OF
ME. TURNED ME INTO THIS BRUTE.

"IT WAS
GREAT."

MADE ME UNSTOPPABLE...
AND CHEESED CHUCK
TO NO END."

"HA."

I
DOUBT THAT THE
PROFESSOR WOULD
BE JEALOUS
OF THAT.

WHY
NOT?

WHEN WE
WERE KIDS, I PUSHED
HIM AROUND. I'R BE N' A
PUNY FLINT. HE PROBABLY
FIGURED HE'D EVENTUALLY
GROW UP ENOUGH TO
FIGHT BACK.

SURPRISE.
I GOT TO BE BIGGER
'N STRONGER FOR
ALL TIME.

DROP IT,
I'M IN YOUR
MIND NOW
FOCUS ON THE
BLOCK.

KEEP
HITTING
IT

IT'S
GIVING
WAY.

BE
READY FOR
ANYTHING..

UPSTAIRS.

AT C.Y.C.O.P.S. REQUEST, CHARLES XAVIER MAKES AN EFFORT TO PROBE THE THE PSI-PLANE FOR SIGNS OF ONSLAUGHT.

THE EFFORT IS WEAK

HE CANNOT FOCUS. THERE IS TOO MUCH NOISE IN HIS HEAD. HE IS DISTRACTED BY THE THUNDER ..

... CLEAR SKIES TONIGHT. NOW, FOR AN UPDATE ON LOCAL NEWS...

... OF HIS LATEST FAILURES

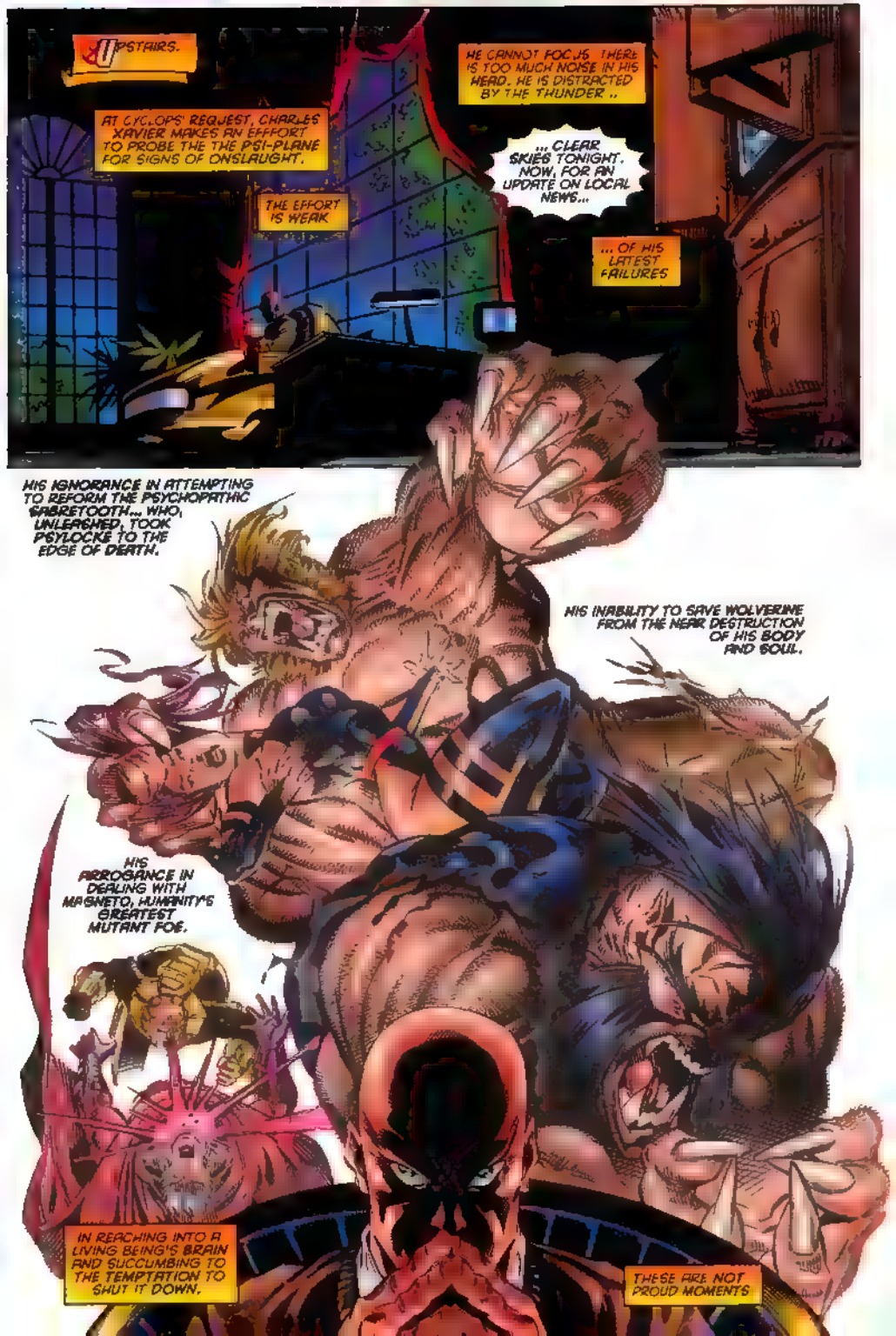
HIS IGNORANCE IN ATTEMPTING TO REFORM THE PSYCHOPATHIC SABRETOOTH... WHO, UNLEASHED, TOOK PSYLOCKE TO THE EDGE OF DEATH.

HIS INABILITY TO SAVE WOLVERINE FROM THE NEAR DESTRUCTION OF HIS BODY AND SOUL.

HIS ARROGANCE IN DEALING WITH MAGNETO, HUMANITY'S GREATEST MUTANT FOE.

IN REACHING INTO A LIVING BEING'S BRAIN AND SUCCUMBING TO THE TEMPTATION TO SHUT IT DOWN.

THESE ARE NOT PROUD MOMENTS



THE PATH XAVIER HAS CHOSEN FOR HIMSELF AND HIS STUDENTS HAS NEVER BEEN AN EASY ONE

AND NEVER HARDER THAN IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS.

FROM ALL DIRECTIONS, NEW HATREDS ARE RAINING DOWN UPON THE MUTANT RACE TO XAVIER, THE RESULTANT FRUSTRATION IS OVERWHELMING.

HE CAN SEE HIS DREAM OF MUTANT-HUMAN HARMONY COLLAPSING...

.. EVERYWHERE HE TURNS

...ONE YOUTH ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE WEEKS-OLD SLAYING OF DENNIS HOGAN.

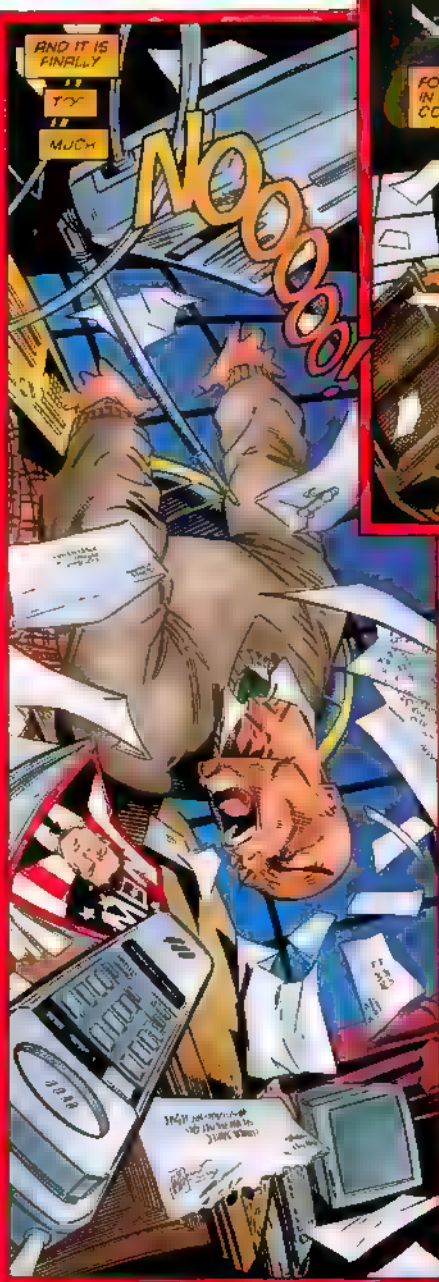
HOGAN, A TEENAGER BELIEVED TO CARRY MUTANT POWERS, WAS BEATEN TO DEATH BY AN ANGRY MOB OUTSIDE WESTCHESTER...

DESPITE MY EFFORTS, THINKS CHARLES.

WHEN ARRESTED, HOGAN'S ALLEGED ASSAILANT MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

THAT MUTIE GOT WHAT HE DESERVED. MAN! THAT WASN'T NO CRIME! THERE'S A MILLION WHO'LL BACK ME UP -- AND MORE EVERY DAY!

YOU CANT STOP US! WE'LL GET YOU ALL! WE'LL GET YOU --

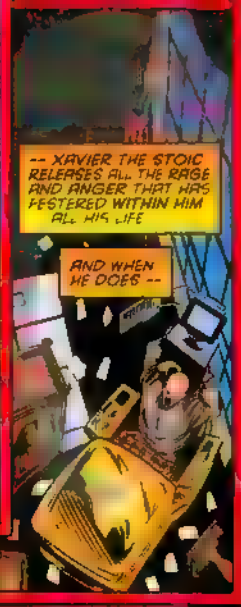


AND IT IS
FINALLY
TOO
MUCH

NOOOOOO!



FOR THE FIRST TIME
IN MEMORY, IN ONE
COLOSSAL BURST --

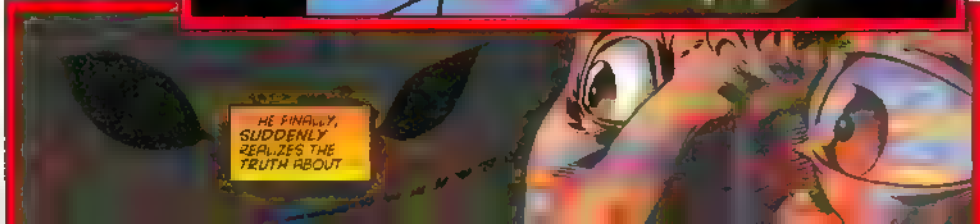


-- XAVIER THE STOIC
RELEASES ALL THE RAGE
AND ANGER THAT HAS
FESTERED WITHIN HIM
ALL HIS LIFE

AND WHEN
HE DOES --



-- IN THAT ONE,
HORRIBLE INSTANT --



HE FINALLY,
SUDDENLY
REALIZES THE
TRUTH ABOUT

ONSLAUGHT!

I KNOW
WHO HE
IS!

MARKO,
GO! YOU HAVE
TO LEAVE!
NOW!

HUH? YOU FIGGERED IT
OUT? I STILL DON'T
KNOW ANYTHING...

BUT I DO!
MARKO, FOR GOD'S
SAKE -- YOU'RE
IN TERRIBLE
DANGER!

MARKO,
HE'S IN THE
MANSION!

WHAT?

RUN AS
FAST AS YOU
CAN! IT'S
YOUR ONLY
HOPE!

DO
YOU HEAR
ME?

RUN!

WHERE TO?

OUTSIDE?

MARKO CAN'T
FIND THE DOOR.

WITHOUT WARNING,
THE CORRIDORS OF
THE MANSION BECOME
A GROTESQUE MAZE.

WHAT
THE...?

AND JUGGERNAUT'S
HEART POUNDS.

FRANTICALLY,
HE SEARCHES
FOR AN EXIT...

... ONLY TO HAVE
EACH FOOTFALL
LEAD HIM DEEPER
AND DEEPER INSIDE.

OH,
GOD... OH,
GOD... HE'S IN
MY MIND! WHERE
CAN I...?

WAIT! THAT'S
CHUCK'S STUDY,
INNIT? YEAH!

CHUCK! IT'S
ME -- MARKO!
CHUCK, I'M SORRY
ABOUT EVERYTHING --
I SWEAR!

FOR GOD'S
SAKE -- YOU
GOTTA HELP
ME!

DON'T LET
ME DIE, MARK!
HE'S AFTER ME!
HE'S AFTER
ME!

CHUCK!





ONSLAUGHT...?

DON'T...
DON'T
KILL ME,
MAN...

NUL...
NO...

YEARGH!

KILL YOU,
CRAIN MARKO?
WHAT A SPLENDID
IDEA! BUT HOW
WOULD THAT BE
POSSIBLE?

YOU'RE
PROTECTED
BY THE CRIMSON
GEM OF
CYTTORAK.

SO LONG AS
IT STAYS BONDED
TO YOU, YOU'RE
INDESTRUCTIBLE!

SO
LONG
AS,

THAT'S IT,
MARKO. WHIMPER.
BEG FOR MY MERCY.
DO YOU REALIZE HOW
LONG I'VE BEEN
WAITING FOR THIS
MOMENT?



ALL MY
LIFE.

X-MEN... THIS
IS PROFESSOR
XAVIER!



PLEASE GIVE
ME YOUR UTMOST
ATTENTION!



YOU ARE
TO ABANDON
YOUR HUNT
IMMEDIATELY!

PROFESSOR,
DO YOU THINK
THAT'S
WISE --?

I NO
LONGER BELIEVE
JUGGERNAUT TO BE A
PROBLEM, SCOTT. IN
FACT... WE HAVE FAR
MORE URGENT
MATTERS TO
DISCUSS.

COME
TO ME, MY
X-MEN...

WAR
ONSLAUGHT

TO BE CONTINUED IN:

WATCH FOR IT!